

Wing Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

FOR THE YEAR

1920.

BY

PERCY STEDMAN,

M.B. (LOND.), D.P.H. (LOND.),

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

Late House Physician and House Surgeon, University Hospital, London.

Fellowes Medallist in Medicine.

Medical Officer of Health.

H. Jackson and Co., Printers, Leighton Buzzard.

TO THE
Rural District Council
OF
W I N G .

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1920.

As you are aware, copies of it have to be sent to the Ministry of Health.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural District of Wing covers a large area of very fertile land, the greater part of which is cultivated. The height of the district varies between 300 and 600 feet above sea level, parts of it being on gravel, other on chalk, and the low lying parts on heavy blue clay.

The whole district is an exceedingly healthy one, the higher portions of it being very bracing.

The chief occupation of the people is of an agricultural nature, the soil being very fertile.

It is a favourite hunting country and there are many hunting residences in the district.

The Grand Junction Canal runs through the greater part of the district and is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

His Majesty's Inspector has visited the district during the year.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 5,733.

BIRTHS.

119 births were recorded during the year, 116 being legitimate and three illegitimate. The birth rate is 20.75 per 1,000; the rate for England and Wales in 1920 being 25.4 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

55 deaths were registered in the district, four of these being non-residents, and 12 residents died elsewhere. The death rate for the year is 10.9 per 1,000, the death rate during 1920 for England and Wales being 12.4 per 1,000. 7 deaths were children under one year. The infantile mortality (or rate per 1,000 births) was 58.8. For England and Wales the deaths of infants under one year of age were 80 per 1,000.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

DIPHTHERIA.

There were two cases of diphtheria during the year.

On June 18th a notification was received from Wing. It was a gentleman whose business was in London, but resided at Wing, going to London daily. When in London he complained of a sore throat and consulted a doctor. There was no membrane on the throat at that time. He returned home, and, on a swab being taken, it was found to be positive. There was ample room for isolation and he was treated at home. The case was mild throughout, there were no complications, and he made a good recovery. It should be stated that his profession took him amongst cases of disease where doubtless he contracted it. No other cases occurred in the district, although there were children in the house.

The only other case of diphtheria during the year was in the Mentmore district. The case was a very severe one and was removed to hospital where it died. The house was found to be in a clean condition by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. As there were several inmates in the cottage they were medically examined several times.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 14 cases of scarletina during the year.

On August 1st a boy aged $5\frac{1}{2}$ was notified from Littleworth as suffering from scarletina. He was a visitor from Dartford. He was removed to hospital and made a good recovery. The premises were disinfected, cleansed and white-washed.

On August 3rd, a boy living close to the previous case was notified as suffering from the same disease. He was also removed to hospital and made a good recovery.

On the same date a girl aged 7 was notified from the same parish, but she lived a considerable distance away. As there was plenty of room for isolation in the house, it was at first decided to keep her at home, but later on it was thought advisable to remove her to hospital.

On August 11th a boy aged nine was notified from Ched-dington. He was removed to hospital, making a good recovery. It should be noted in this case that the father travelled to London daily to business.

On August 28th a girl aged 8 was notified from Wing and was removed to hospital.

On September 5th a boy aged 5 was notified from Wing. He was removed to hospital.

On September 11th a girl aged 6 was notified from Wing. She was removed to hospital.

On October 2nd a girl aged 13 was notified from Little-worth. She was also removed to hospital.

On October 5th a girl aged 2 was notified and was removed to hospital.

On October 8th I was informed by the school teacher that there was illness in a cottage at Dagnall. I visited the place and found four children suffering from a very mild form of scarlet fever. In addition, the mother was expecting to be confined. All four children were removed to hospital and made a good recovery.

On October 8th a girl aged 4. was notified from Dagnall. She was isolated at home.

ENTERIC FEVER.

On August 30th a man, aged 63, was notified as suffering from enteric, from Wellcroft, Ivinghoe. We visited the house and found that it was in a good state of sanitation. We took a sample of the well water and sent it to the Clinical Research Society, and the report came back satisfactory. The bedding was removed to the hospital and baked.

On September 2nd a woman, aged 35. was notified from High Street, Wing. She was removed to hospital.

Both these cases made good recoveries, and there were no further cases in either district.

PNEUMONIA.

During the year there were five cases of pneumonia.

On February 4th a man, aged 29, was notified from Wing.

On September 13th a man, aged 64, was notified also from Aylesbury Road, Wing. He had suffered from an asthmatic condition of the lungs for many years. I saw him in consultation with his medical man, and both his lungs were affected with the disease.

On November 8th a man, aged 67, was notified as suffering from this disease, from Soulbury.

On December 14th a man, aged 63, was notified from Crafton.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

On August 20th, a case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified from Marsworth. It was isolated at home, as there was every convenience for it. The case was seen by the local medical practitioner and also by a medical specialist from London. The house was a good one and in a satisfactory state of sanitation. I visited the case and again later, and found that she was progressing favourably.

TUBERCULOSIS.

On May 17th a married woman aged 40, was notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis from Ivinghoe. This was from a well built house in the highest part of the district. There was no history of tuberculosis in the family. She had several children and she went to a sanatorium for treatment.

On December 14th a girl aged 19 was notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. She had been residing in Yorkshire and working in a factory there. The house to which she came was in the outskirts of the village of Wing and she was able to live under thoroughly hygienic conditions. She had a separate bedroom and the sputum was burnt. She did not wish to go to a sanatorium.

GROVE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year, twenty-four cases were treated at the hospital, seven of which were cases of scarlet fever imported off a barge at Linslade.

There are in the hospital:—

10 scarlet fever beds.

4 Diphtheria beds.

8 Typhoid beds.

There is an inexhaustible water supply to the hospital which is pumped into a large tank gravitating to each ward and the administration block. The drainage is very satisfactory and is discharged into a septic tank, the effluent being treated in brick filter. This is regularly cleaned out as required and the drains are frequently disinfected.

It is a thoroughly well equipped hospital and quite up to date in every respect. There is a permanent matron who resides there, and the administration is on the best lines.

It is quite able to deal with all cases that occur in the joint Wing and Linslade districts. Specimens are sent to the Clinical Research for microscopic and bacteriological examination.

WATER SUPPLY.

At Wing the water is obtained by a boring into the lower green sand. It is bored 120 feet from the surface. The rest level of the water is 18 feet from the surface. The well itself is in Linslade Parish close to the London and North Western Railway line at Southcourt Bridge.

The average yield of water is 4,000 gallons per hour; it is pumped a distance of a mile and a half to a reservoir situated on high ground just inside the Wing boundary, near Burcott Farm, and which has recently been purchased by the Bucks County Council.

The water is filtered through sand filters which extract the iron; it is then stored in a reservoir, of a capacity of 70,000 gallons, whence it gravitates round the village. Three quarters of the village are connected up. Cattle drinking troughs are also supplied by it.

At Cheddington there is a public water supply; the well is situated at West End Hill. The water is pumped into a reservoir and the water is supplied to the village by gravitation through four mains, stand pipes being fixed in the village.

A portion of the houses are connected. In other villages the water is from wells.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

At Wing the outfall works, consisting of septic tanks and duplicate filters, are situated on the North side of the village. A very satisfactory effluent is obtained. A small portion of waste land here is used for broad irrigation on which suitable crops are grown.

The scavenging is done by a contractor for the District Council twice a week.

At Cheddington the village is sewered and gravitates towards the south end of the village, where it is treated by broad irrigation over four acres of land, the land being used for the growing of mangolds and other suitable crops.

As this is the Thames water shed, and no complaints have been received, it is working satisfactorily.

In other villages the pail closet system is in use.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no pollution of either rivers or streams in this district.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are schools in the following villages: Stoke, Soulbury, Wing, Mentmore, Cheddington, Marsworth, Pitstone, Ivinghoe, Ivinghoe Aston, Dagnall, Slapton and Edlesborough.

The Sanitary accommodation has been inspected.

MILK SUPPLY

There are 53 registered cowkeepers in the Rural District, representing about 890 cows. The sheds are principally in the parishes of Soulbury, Wing, Stoke Hammond and Slapton. The milk goes chiefly to London, Aylesbury and Watford.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, BAKEHOUSES, ETC.

There are 7 registered slaughterhouses, 2 being at Wing one at Cheddington, one at Ivinghoe, one at Pitstone and two at Edlesborough.

They are all kept in good condition and white washed, and they have been inspected regularly.

There are ten registered bakehouses in the district. They are all kept in a clean condition. There is only one underground one.

There is a brewery in the district which gives considerable employment to the villagers of Ivinghoe.

There is also a flour mill and some brick yards.

CANAL BOATS.

No. of boats inspected	27
No. of boats registered to carry	111
No. of male adults on boats	30
No. of female adults on boats	27
No. of children on boats	29
Average per boat	3.11

No legal proceedings taken during the year. No contraventions.

GOVERNMENT HOUSING SCHEME.

Six houses are being erected at Pitstone, ten at Ivinghoe, eight at Cheddington, six at Wing, six at Soulbury and eight at Stoke Hammond.

At Ivinghoe six are occupied, at Cheddington eight, and at Wing four.

At Cheddington the houses are of the parlour type with bathroom and W.C.

At Wing there are four parlour type houses and two of the non-parlour type.

At Soulbury there are two of the parlour type and four of the non-parlour type.

At Stoke four are of the parlour type and four of the non-parlour type.

At Ivinghoe, four are of the parlour type and six of the non-parlour type.

At Pitstone there are two of the parlour type and four of the non-parlour type.

Each house has three bedrooms, whether of the parlour or non-parlour type.

At Cheddington and Wing the water supply is connected to the houses and the houses to the sewerage system.

The drainage generally of the others are of the pail closet system.

The rain water is collected in wooden butts.

As a result of the general housing survey the following conditions should be noted.

Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Act	370
Number of such dwelling houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	32

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders.....	32
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made by the Local authority	nil.
Number of dwelling houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	nil.
Number of dwelling houses which after the making of closing orders were made fit for human habitation	nil.

GENERAL.

Number of inspections	473
Complaints received	nil.
Nuisances detected without complaint	67
Notices served, informal	26
Nuisances abated (a) by person responsible	25
(b) by Council	nil.
Summonses taken out	nil.
Convictions	nil.

HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired	nil.
Spouts cleaned and repaired	nil.
Pavement repaired	nil.
Overcrowding abated	nil.
Dirty houses cleansed	nil.
Other defects remedied	nil.

DRAINS, W.C.'s, PRIVIES, ETC.

Total defects found	nil.
Drains cleansed, repaired, or ventilated	3
New drains laid	6
W.c.'s repaired	3
Privies to E.C.'s	4

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses supplied with water during the year (formerly without)	5
Samples taken for analysis	7
Certificates granted (Rural Districts only).....	nil.
Certificates deferred (Rural Districts only).....	nil.
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, etc.....	nil.
Wells cleansed or repaired	2
Wells closed	nil.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register.....	7
Number of inspections	45
Number of defects found	nil.
Number remedied	nil.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register.....	10
Number of inspections	50
Number of defects found	nil.
Number remedied	nil.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk on Register	53
Number of Cowkeepers on Register	53
Number of inspections	136
Number of defects found	nil.
Number remedied	nil.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on Register.....	25
Number of inspections	54
Number of defects found	nil.
Number remedied	nil.

VARIOUS.

Removal of animals improperly kept	nil.
Visits to infected houses	16
Houses disinfected	32
Other items	nil.

Your obedient servant,

PERCY STEDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1920 & previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.				Total Deaths Registered in the District.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor. No.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-registered residents in the District. 8	of Residents not registered in the District. 9	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.		
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11			
												10	13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
1915	5802	81	84	14.4	85	14.6	5	20		5	60	100	17.2
1916	5428	107	107	18.1	90	16.5		11		7	65	101	18.9
1917	5270	91	87	14.8	63	11.9		14		3	34	77	14.6
1918	5814	85	83	14.2	93	17.9	3	20		7	84	110	21.1
1919	5513	83	85	14.8	59	10.7		14		2	23.5	73	13.2
1920	5733	117	119	20.75	55	9.6	4	12		7	58.8	63	10.9

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	} 28,587.	Total population at all ages Number of inhabited houses Average number of persons per house	}	At Census, 1911. 6089 1496 4
--	-----------	---	---	--

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1920.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total cases notified in each locality.					Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Wing & Mentmore	Ivinghoe, Cheddington, Dagnall, Edlesbo', Slapton.	Grove, Soulbury and Stoke.	Marsworth and Pitstone.			
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65					65 & upwards		
Small-pox													
Cholera													
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2	1	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Erysipelas	14	3	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	
Scarlet Fever													
Typhus Fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Enteric Fever.....													
Relapsing Fever ...													
Continued Fever ...													
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....													
Encephalitis													
Lethargica.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles													
Pulmonary Tuberculosis													
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria													
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	24	5	11	3	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	16	

Isolation Hospital, Grove, Wing.

Berks and Bucks Sanatorium.

TABLE III.

WING RURAL DISTRICT.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1920.

Causes of Death.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of " Residents " whether occurring in or beyond the District								
		All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
All Causes	{ Certified Uncert.	63	7		4	2	4	5	15	28
Enteric Fever										
Small-pox										
Measles		1	1							
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Croup		1			1					
Influenza										
Erysipelas										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		1						1		
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases		2				1			1	
Cancer, malignant Disease		5							3	2
Rheumatic Fever										
Meningitis										
Organic Heart Disease...		9				1		1	1	6
Bronchitis		1								1
Pneumonia (all forms)		2							1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs										
Diarrhoea and Enteritis										
Appendicitis & Typhlitis										
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Alcoholism										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		2			1				1	
Puerperal Fever...		1					1			
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition										
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth		3	3							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide		3	1				1		1	
Suicide		1							1	
Other Defined Diseases		31	2		2		2	3	6	18
Diseases ill-defined or unknown										
Accidents...										
Totals		63	7		4	2	4	5	15	28

WING RURAL DISTRICT.—Infantile Mortality during the year 1920.
 Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	3	2	1	6				1	7
{ Small-pox									
{ Chicken-pox									
{ Measles								1	
{ Scarlet Fever									
{ Whooping Cough									
{ Diphtheria : Croup									
Erysipelas									
{ Tuberculous Meningitis									
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis									
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases									
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)									
Convulsions		1							
Laryngitis... ..									
Bronchitis									
Pneumonia (all forms) ...									
{ Diarrhœa									
{ Enteritis									
Gastritis									
Syphilis									
Rickets									
Suffocation, overlying ...	1								
Injury at Birth									
Atelectasis									
{ Congenital Malformations		1							
{ Premature Birth	2								
{ Atrophy, Debility, and									
{ Marasmus									
Violence									
Other Causes			1						
Totals	3	2	1	6				1	7

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate 116. Illegitimate 3.
 Nett deaths in the Year—Legitimate Infants, 7. Illegitimate Infants, 1.